



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: 1401 LASALLE STREET, P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO	CONFIRMATION NO
09-761,466	01-16-2001	Ike W. Lee	01948 069002	5261
21559	7590	08-26-2003		
CLARK & ELBING LLP 101 FEDERAL STREET BOSTON, MA 02110			EXAMINER	
			QIAN, CELINE X	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1636		17		
DATE MAILED 08-26-2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/761,486	Applicant(s) LEE ET AL.
	Examiner Celine X Qian	Art Unit 1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- if the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- if NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6,8,9,11,12,18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-6,8,9,11,12,18,19 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 June 2001 is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: *Examiner's Amendment*

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on 8/21/03, Applicants requested an extension of time and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 03-2095 the required fee for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' representative Kristina Brady on 8/21/03.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprising an enhancer element having:

- (a) a segment with at least 95% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and a segment with at least 95% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- (b) at least 95% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, or
- (c) at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said enhancer element [nucleic acid molecule] comprises a binding site selected from the group consisting of Mef2, dHAND, GATA, TGF-β, CarG, E-box, and CsX/Nkx2 5 binding sites

Claim 5 The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, wherein said enhancer element [nucleic acid molecule] further comprises an Sp-1 binding site

Claim 10 An expression vector comprising a gene linked to a regulatory sequence wherein said sequence is a cardiac enhancer element comprising

(a) a segment with at least 95% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO 1 and a segment with at least 95% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO 2,

(b) at least 95% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO.3, or

(c) at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO.4

Claim 20 cancelled

As requested by Applicants, the following is a clarification of the term “enhancer element.” It is understood by Applicants and the examiner that the “enhancer element” encompasses both A1 region and A2 region, and all the binding sites located either within these two regions or between the two regions. Applicants authorized the amendment of claims 4 and 5 based on this understanding.

Conclusion

This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters

Color photographs and color drawings are acceptable only for examination purposes unless a petition filed under 37 CFR 1.84(a)(2) is granted permitting their use as acceptable drawings. In the event that applicant wishes to use the drawings currently on file as acceptable drawings, a petition must be filed for acceptance of the color photographs or color drawings as

Art Unit: 1636

acceptable drawings. Any such petition must be accompanied by the appropriate fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h), three sets of color drawings or color photographs, as appropriate, and an amendment to the first paragraph of the brief description of the drawings section of the specification which states

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

Color photographs will be accepted if the conditions for accepting color drawings have been satisfied.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Celine X Qian whose telephone number is 703-306-0283. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Remy Yucel Ph.D. can be reached on 703-305-1998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Anne-Marie Falk
ANNE-MARIE FALK, PH.D.
PATENT EXAMINER

Celine Qian, Ph.D.